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TO:

Debbie Doxtator, Chairwoman Oneida Business Committee

FROM:

Scott Dacey

DATE:

May 25, 1995

RE:

Meetings of May 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C.

The following is a report concerning the meetings I participated in during your trip to Washington, D.C. on May 22&23.

May 22

BIA: In an effort to better understand the current status of the Hudson track proposal, Debbie, Carl Artman and I met with Mike Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, George Skibine, Director of the Office of Indian Gaming Management, and Tom Hartman, a member of Skibine's staff. The Indian Gaming Management Office will send a letter to the Red Cliff Tribal Council this week stating that their office expects to complete the review of the request within one month. The paperwork will then be sent to the Solicitors Office at Interior to make certain the Office of Indian Gaming and the BIA Minneapolis Area Office have complied with all of the requirements outlined under Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The Solicitor would then pass the paperwork along to the Secretary's office for the approval or rejection of the petition. The Secretary has the ability to approve the transfer of land into trust under two areas of the law, first Section 20 of IGRA and second, Section 151 of the Code of Federal Regulations which governs land acquisitions by Indian Tribal Governments and individual Indians.

Section 20 of IGRA states that the Secretary must determine that a gaming establishment on newly acquired lands would be in the best interest of the Indian tribe and its members, and would not be detrimental to the surrounding community. Skibine stated that their office is first attempting to assess whether this transfer would be "detrimental" to the "surrounding community".

Because neither "detrimental" nor "surrounding community" are defined in IGRA, the BIA has written guidelines, "Checklist for Acquisition for Gaming Purposes". "Surrounding community" includes most forms of non-Indian

OACEY Strain